(d) whether any Specialist Team had investigated this outbreak;

(e) if so, the details of their findings, suggested measures, steps taken and financial allocation made for controlling the said disease;

(f) whether Government propose to pay compensation to the affected families of diseased persons who died due to lack of medical facilities; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) Cases and deaths due to Gastro-entritis reported in Assam during the last five year given below:—

Year	Cases	Deaths
1993	11665	146
1994	17407	586
1995	13009	624
1996	2685	130
1997	328	07
1998	10551	268 (upto 10.7.1998)

The increase in cases is due to contamination of drinking water and poor sanitation. Forty Tea Estates were affected of which 26 are in Jorhat District and 14 in Golaghat District. Separate tea estate-wise figures are not available.

(b) An Officer from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi investigated the out-break from 30.6.98 to 7.7.98. Teams from Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugah and Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati also visited the affected areas.

(c) The areas of outbreaks had inadequate safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Measures for prevention and control of water borne diseases include provison of safe drinking water, chlorination of water sources, improvement of sanitation facilities and strengthening of health infrastructure in critical areas for proper case management.

State Health Authorities have reported that:—

(i) Medical teams have been sent to the affected areas;

(ii) Chlorination of water has been arranged;

(iii) Essential medicines have been procured; and

(iv) Health Education Cells of the districts have been engaged in extensive health education.

(f) and (g) Government have no scheme to pay compensation to the affected familes.

Spread of Tuberculosis in Orissa

*458. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the incidents of Tuberculosis (TB) in Orissa;

(b) whether these incidents are increasing mostly in the tribal and mining areas; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken to provide proper and adequate treatment to the TB patients in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incidents of Tuberculosis cases reported under the programme have by and large remained static over the years both in tribal and mining areas.

(c) The National TB Control Programme is being implemented in all States/UTs including Orissa. Under this programme anti-TB drugs for treatment of patients is being provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs.

With assistance from DANIDA, the Government has also proposed to implement the Revised National TB Programme is 14 districts of the State over a period of 5 years with the objective of achieving a cure rate of 85% against the current national average of 30%.

Sale of Spurious medicines in Delhi

*459. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether duplicate and spurious medicines are being sold by chemists in Delhi without any let or hinderance in collusion with the concerned Government Officials jeopardising the lives of the innocent and gullible people;

(b) whether surprise raids are conducted periodically to detect and apprehend the culprits who indulge in such inhuman and henious crimes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) According to the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, such instances have not come to notice involving any collusion.

(b) Yes Sir.

*During the period 1996—98, 2251 inspections were carried out on Drugs and Consmetics firms and 9195 inspections were carried out on sales premises in Delhi. Out of these 136 samples were reported as not of standard quality. 2 among them were reported as spurious. In both cases, prosecution has been filed in the Court of Law against the defaulters.

*1339 special inspections to detect various contraventions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules including sale/manufacture of spurious drugs were carried out during 1996—98.

*Purchase survey samples of drugs from retail chemists located in Delhi are also picked up through watchers of the Deptt. and the presence of active ingredients checked for follow-up action to be initiated in the case of deficiencies.

In all these cases, in case any infringement of the rules is found, including irregularities, appropriate action is taken under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above, the question does not arise.

Vigilance inquiry into Malpractices of Red Cross Society

*460. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Statesman, dated the 11th February, 1998, under the heading "Money is thicker than blood at Red Cross";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whehter the Vigilance Inquiry set up to enquire into the the matter has since submitted its report; and, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been enquired into. The Indian Red Cross Society has reported that legal opinion has been sought before further action is initiated against the offenders.